READING EXERCISES

A. The blooming of the cherry trees in Washington, D.C. is an annual tradition which has come to symbolize the natural beauty of America's capital city. The famous trees herald Washington's rite of spring with a vivid explosion of life and colour that blankets the city's open spaces in a sea of fragrant white and pale pink blossoms.

B. The first cherry trees were presented as a gift of friendship from the Japanese people to the people of the United States in the early twentieth century. 3,020 cherry trees of different varieties were planted in March 1912, with just over half of the trees being Yoshino Cherry trees.

C. In Japan, the cherry tree, or "Sakura," is a plant which is valued highly. It is a powerful symbol which represents the transformation of Japanese culture throughout the ages.

D. Cherry blossom blooming peaks anywhere from mid-March to mid-April, depending on weather conditions. The peak bloom date is defined as the day when seventy percent of the Yoshino Cherry blossoms are open.

E. Hundreds of thousands of people from around the world visit Washington D.C. every spring, to enjoy seeing the Japanese flowering cherry trees in full bloom.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. When does the Cherry Blossom Festival take place?

a) in winter, **b)** in spring, **c)** in summer

2. Which of these statements about the text is *true*?

a) the trees were planted in the 19th century, **b)** the trees were a gift from the people of Japan, **c)** the trees only flower every other year

3. Which of these statements about the text is *false*?

a) the festival is a local event, **b)** Cherry blossoms are pink and white, **c)** Washington D.C. is America's capital city

4. Which of these things does the text tell us?

a) What happens during the festival, **b)** when the trees were planted, **c)** how many different varieties of tree were planted

5. Which of these things *isn't* mentioned in the text?

a) how long the trees stay in bloom for, **b)** when the trees were planted, **c)** how many people visit the festival

1. Washington's cherry blossom trees were _____ over a hundred years ago.

a) planting **b)** planted **c)** plant

2. The trees _____ a gift from the people of Japan.

a) are **b)** was **c)** were

3. Japanese flowering cherry trees _____ in the springtime.

a) bloom **b)** bloomed **c)** blooms

4. The festival _____ visitors from all over the world.

a) attract **b)** attracts **c)** is attracting

5. The date when the trees flower _____ on weather conditions.

a) depends **b)** depend **c)** would depend

LIVEWORKSHEETS